

# JNF Canada - Discrimination subsidized by Canadian Taxpayers

Green Party Resolution G16-P010 - Revoking the Charitable Status of the Jewish National Fund (JNF) - highlights the abuses of the JNF, and insists that the Canadian government stop its Canadian taxpayer funded subsidy for the JNF. Through this resolution, Green Party members support the rights of indigenous Palestinians, and pressure the JNF to end its discriminatory practices.

## The JNF's discriminatory land practices

- In the JNF's own words "The JNF was established and functions **solely** for the benefit of the Jewish people. Any attempt to impose upon the JNF an obligation to allocate its properties to those who are not Jews amount to the abolition of the JNF, as well as the Jewish state's turning its back on its donors in the Diaspora and in Israel." (Emphasis added)
- The JNF discriminates against non-Jewish citizens of Israel by holding onto its property with the express purpose of keeping it in Jewish hands forever. Israel's High Court, the U.S. State Department, and the United Nations Committee on Cultural, Social and Economic rights have all concluded that JNF discriminates against Palestinian citizens of Israel through its land-leasing policies.



- "There is a strong case to be made that the Jewish National Fund's bylaws and operations violate Canadian policy and law... [R]acial equality is a stated aim of Canadian charitable policy." (Engler, Yves, "Canadian tax agency protected Jewish National Fund from scrutiny," April 25, 2013)

## "Canada Park" - War Crime Cover-up

- JNF Canada's flagship project is called "Canada Park." It sits within the Occupied Palestinian Territories, beyond the Green Line (the internationally recognized border dividing "Israel proper" from the Occupied Palestinian Territory). It was established over the ruins of the depopulated and demolished Palestinian villages of Imwas, Yalu, and Deir Ayyub, and over lands belonging to the village of Beit Nuba (in the Latrun salient). The forced removal of the villagers and demolition of the Latrun villages are direct violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- In the words of former Israeli parliamentarian and veteran peace activist, Uri Avnery, "By putting that park there and calling it 'Canada Park', you give a Canadian cover-up to a war crime." (CBC, "Canada Park: A Park with no Peace", 1991)
- The villagers played no role in the fighting of the 1967 War, and held white flags (signifying non-violence) when the Israeli soldiers entered the villages. To this day, none of the roughly 10,000 expelled residents of these villages have been apologized to or granted their right to return to their properties under international law.



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# Revoking the Charitable Status of the Jewish National Fund

Green Party [Resolution G16-P010 - Revoking the Charitable Status of the Jewish National Fund \(JNF\)](#) - demands that Canadian taxpayers no longer subsidize the JNF's institutional discrimination against Israel's non-Jewish citizens. By supporting this resolution, Green Party members ensure that Canadians and the Canada Revenue Agency have no role supporting the JNF's human rights violations.

## Jewish National Fund - Background

- The Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF Canada) is an office of the Israeli organization Keren Kayemet LeIsrael/Jewish National Fund (JNF).
- JNF Canada is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), which enables it to issue charitable tax receipts to its donors, enabling donors to essentially get tax rebates for their donations to JNF Canada. This means that Canadian taxpayers ultimately subsidize a large proportion of JNF Canada's revenues.
- JNF Canada sends its tax-deductible funds abroad to support JNF projects in both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.
- The JNF was established in 1901 with the purpose of acquiring land in historic Palestine for exclusively Jewish settlement. Today, the JNF owns and manages 13% of the total land of Israel. The vast majority of land that the JNF owns (500,000 out of 625,000 acres) was confiscated by the Israeli state between 1948 and 1949 from Palestinian civilians who were forced to flee from their homes. These Palestinians have been barred from ever returning to their homes and lands, and have been denied any compensation or even an apology.
- The JNF tries to portray itself as a "green" and "environmental" organizational through its claims of "greening the desert," and "redeeming" and "reclaiming" land. Nevertheless, these projects are often carried out at the expense of indigenous Palestinians who continue to live off the land, or who lived there and were forcibly pushed off their lands, in order to make way for exclusively Jewish settlement.

## JNF's "Greenwashing" Practices

- JNF parks and forests cover over the ruins of 89 depopulated and demolished Palestinian villages, erasing them from space and consciousness.
- JNF official Michael Katorza states: "In fact, a large portion of JNF parks are on lands where Palestinian villages used to stand, and the forests are intended to camouflage this." (*Kadman, Noga, Erased from Space and Consciousness, 2015, p. 43*)
- Environmental justice activist and Canadian author **Naomi Klein** recently wrote: "The Israeli state has long coated its nation-building project in a green veneer... And in this context trees, specifically, have been among the most potent weapons of land grabbing and occupation... Sprawling pine and eucalyptus forests have been planted... over Palestinian villages, most notoriously by the Jewish National Fund, which, under its slogan 'Turning the Desert Green', boasts of having planted 250 million trees in Israel since 1901, many of them non-native to the region." (*Klein, "Let Them Drown," June, 2016*)
- The JNF is complicit in the continuing forced displacement of the Bedouins in the Naqab (Negev desert), planting trees over lands the Bedouin have documented ownership of. There is even recent video documentation of a JNF bulldozer demolishing a structure in the Bedouin village of Al Araqib.

